

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/824,748

Applicant(s)

TANAKA, ATSUSHI

Examiner

MANSOUR M. SAID

Art Unit

2673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/11/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 28 & 30, and renumbered as 1-2.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04 April 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The application having been allowed, formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.
2. Claims 28 and 30 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
4. None of the prior art of record either singularly or in combination teach or fairly suggest a coordinate input apparatus/method for calculating a coordinate corresponding to a position of a light spot with which an input screen is irradiated, comprising: a sensor array configured in such a manner that a plurality of optical/electrical conversion elements is arranged; coordinate computing means for successively calculating coordinate data of the light spot from the output of the sensor array; and determining means for determining a readout-start portion of the sensor array from the coordinate data whose ordinal number precedes a predetermined ordinal number, at the time of calculating the coordinate data of the predetermined ordinal number, wherein the coordinate computing means calculates the coordinate data of the ordinal number based on the output from the readout-start portion determined by the determining means, and wherein the determining means further predicts order of readout of the sensor array predicted from the coordinate data whose ordinal number precedes the predetermined ordinal number, and if there is no output from the readout-start portion determined by the determining means, readout is performed in accordance with the order.

Morishita et al. (5,627,565) teach is provided a space coordinates detecting device wherein a detecting section for detecting light emitted from a light source is provided, thereby permitting detection of a relative angle between a light emitting sections and the detecting section and hence permitting application of the detecting device to an input apparatus, the detecting section is provided with a light sensing element having quartered light sensing portions, and a space coordinates detecting device wherein a light source and a detecting section are disposed in positions spaced from each other, the detecting section having three apertures for throttling light emitted area and also having three light sensing portions for sensing the light spots, further included a distance computing section which determines the distance between the light source and the detecting section on the basis of the quantities of lights received in both Y-side light sensing portions.

However, the reference do not teach the claimed limitation such as **“wherein the coordinate computing means calculates the coordinate data of the ordinal number based on the output from the readout-start portion determined by the determining means, and wherein the determining means further predicts order of readout of the sensor array predicted from the coordinate data whose ordinal number precedes the predetermined ordinal number, and if there is no output from the readout-start portion determined by the determining means, readout is performed in accordance with the order”**.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MANSOUR M. SAID whose telephone number is (571) 272-7679. The examiner can normally be reached on MF (8:30-6:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BIPIN SHALWALA can be reached on (571) 272-7679. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mansour M. Said

7/19/05


BIPIN SHALWALA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600